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Memorial garden and fountain proposed to City Council

By James Windell

A conceptual plan for a memorial garden and fountain in front of the City Hall was proposed to the South Haven City Hall.

According to Tom Renner, the idea originated with SHOUT for South Haven as a downtown fountain concept, then evolved into a broader memorial plaza concept on the City Hall lawn.

"The intent is to realign and better organize existing memorials that are currently scattered along the walkways," Renner told the City Council during the council's regular meeting on March 16, 2026.

SHOUT is a non-profit community organization that seeks to make South Haven a better place to live. Tom Renner is Vice-President of SHOUT.

Renner said that he and SHOUT President Bob Copping envision the memorial garden and fountain as a tribute to local citizens who served the country and to first responders, and as a welcoming public gathering spot. He added that SHOUT has been working with veteran's groups including the American Legion, Post 49, and Medal of Honor recipient James McCloughan. SHOUT previously completed the Downtown Dykeman Park fireplace project and referenced it as a successful community enhancement.

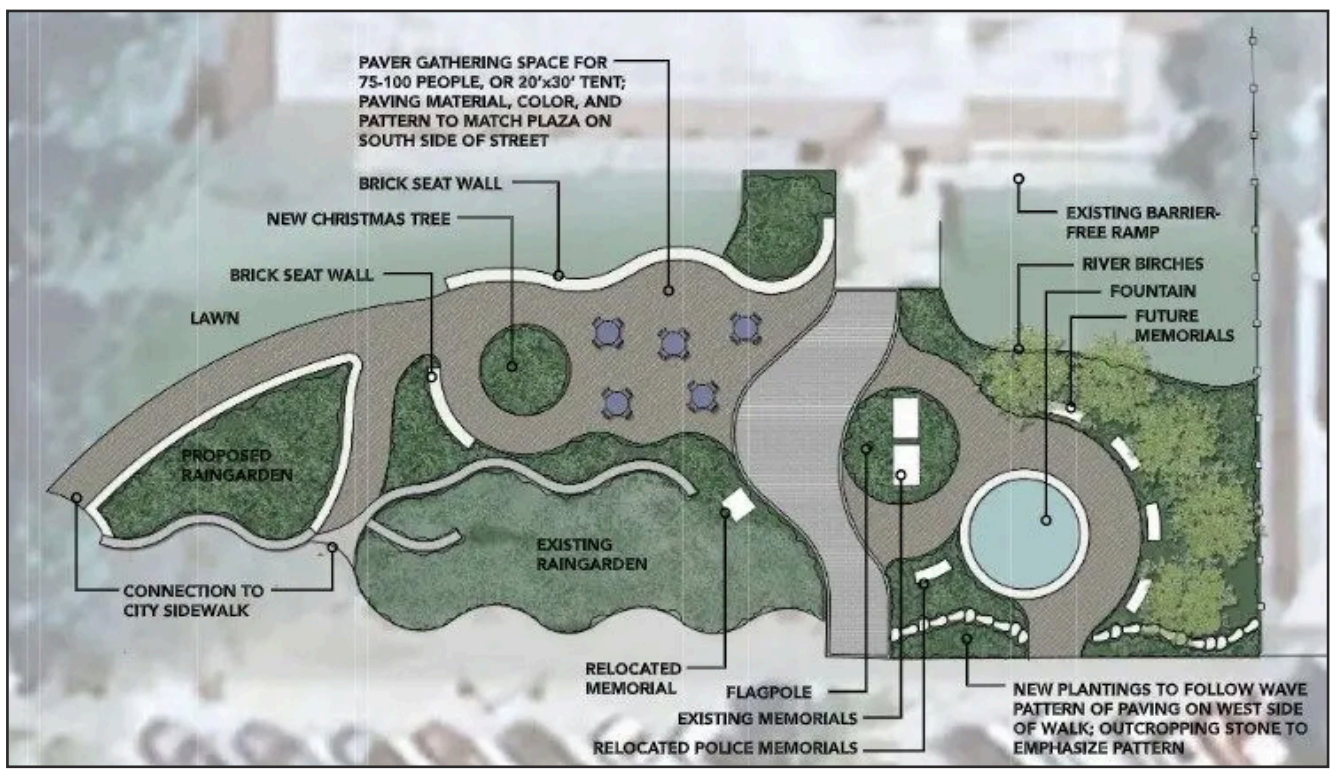
Before coming before the City Council, SHOUT met with the Parks Commission and reported a positive, encouraging reaction to the concept.

Early expectations, Renner said, were that the total project cost would be around $150,000, and they planned to pursue a dollar-for-dollar matching grant through a state economic development program. Additionally, Renner said that SHOUT would pledge $50,000 toward the project.

However, Renner said that an architect's estimate produced "sticker shock," raising concerns that the overall cost was much higher than anticipated. Renner told the City Council that the project remains in the conceptual stage and he emphasized he wasn't seeking an immediate vote.

City Council members asked about fountain water sourcing and the cost. The City Manager, Kate Hosier noted the fountain would connect to the municipal water system and the city would pay for water like any other customer. Although two fountain approaches were discussed, no estimate was available for ongoing water costs and Renner said they have not reached the practical operating-cost details.

Mayor Annie Brown said that she thought


PAVER GATHERING SPACE FOR 75-100 PEOPLE, OR 20'x30' TENT; PAVING MATERIAL, COLOR, AND PATTERN TO MATCH PLAZA ON SOUTH SIDE OF STREET
BRICK SEAT WALL
NEW CHRISTMAS TREE
BRICK SEAT WALL
LAWN
PROPOSED RAINGARDEN
CONNECTION TO CITY SIDEWALK
EXISTING RAINGARDEN
RELOCATED MEMORIAL
FLAGPOLE
EXISTING MEMORIALS
RELOCATED POLICE MEMORIALS
EXISTING BARRIER-FREE RAMP
RIVER BIRCHES
FOUNTAIN
FUTURE MEMORIALS
NEW PLANTINGS TO FOLLOW WAVE PATTERN OF PAVING ON WEST SIDE OF WALK; OUTCROPPING STONE TO EMPHASIZE PATTERN

the proposal was a good concept. "I love the drawings and the design plan, so I think it's very attractive," Brown said. "And it's always great to partner with a Bob Copping project. You know, I'm interested in the costs."

Council member Mary Hosley agreed the cost could be difficult to overcome. "I applaud this," she said. "The ticket price is very concerning when we at our Committee of the Whole meeting we discussed a special assessment for our first responders."

Renner responded by saying, "I want to remind Council Person Hosley that when we went to the fireplace project you were very critical of us because we didn't come to the Council and other boards before moving ahead. This time we have been sensitive to that we feel and I don't know what more we can do to please you." He went on to say that the negative feelings made them feel underappreciated and that they were only trying to improve the community.

Mayor Brown said she thought the concept was attractive and she said the City is always interested in partnering with a Bob Copping project.

After the meeting, Mary Hosley said that while she supports the project she was taken aback by "Tom's attack on me for not saying anything different than what Annie Brown said." She added that she could only imagine "how vicious it would have been if I raised the Wightman fee."

The Wightman fee she explained had to do with an item in the consent section of the City Council's agenda that the council approved unanimously. One item that the City paid was a $13,294.45 bill to the Wightman company, an engineering firm that drew up the renditions of the memorial garden and fountain.

"You have to understand these are our tax dollars going to this project," Hosley said. "That will add more tax to our residents who are already having a problem paying their bills and now we are approving money for these renditions."

Hosley concluded that as she said at the beginning of her comments at the City Council meeting that she supports the efforts of SHOUT, "But the hidden costs, the staff time, the budget – these are things I take issue with. They were undertaken before the Council said yes to the project."

South Haven City Clerk resigns

By James Windell

In December, 2024, Mayor Annie honored South Haven's City Clerk, Megan Kiker, with a proclamation for her "exceptional dedication and tireless work during the 2024 election season, ensuring the integrity and success of the electoral process."

Throughout her five years, Kiker has admirably fulfilled the many duties of a city clerk. However, Kiker has submitted her resignation as City Clerk.

Kiker's resignation will be effective April 30, 2026. She said in an interview on March 20, 2026, two days after tendering her resignation, that it was not an easy decision to make.

"I weighed my decision very heavily," she said, "because I have enjoyed my job here and have appreciated the support I have received from the city staff and the residents. I've grown up in South Haven after moving here when I was 17. Everything I have today and the woman I am today is because of South Haven."

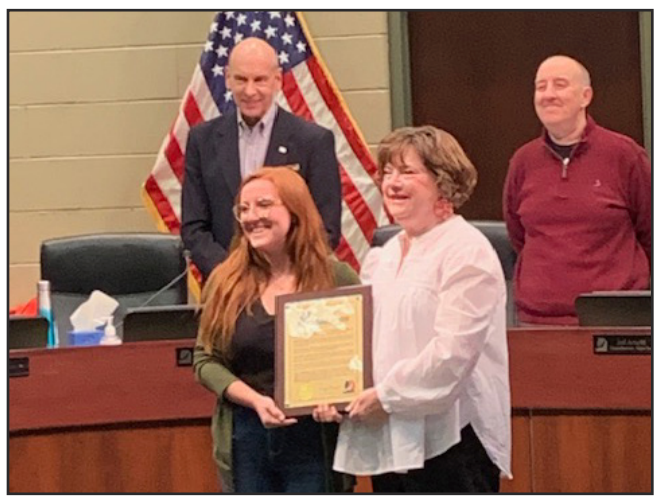
She said that she gave a six week notice because of very specific reasons. "I gave my notice for six weeks instead of the standard two weeks because I wanted to make sure they would be able to get someone hired and trained before the August election," she explained. "If I stayed through August, it would be very difficult for the city to get someone hired and trained before the important November election. I felt that that was not the right way to leave."

Kiker said that her reasons for leaving the job she has so enjoyed doing was related to wanting to move to a warm weather state.

"I'm going to be moving to San Diego in September of this year," she said. "My mother was actually born and raised in California, so a part of me always thought I would end up back there somewhere. I visited San Diego and fell in love with the area. We had a really hard winter here and I didn't like struggling with the winter weather and feeling a little isolated and cold. But I also wanted to try something new. I've lived here for 14 years, and I believe there is something new on the horizon for me."

Kiker said that her plans are to stay in South Haven until September and then move to San Diego. "After I leave my job, I plan to work Three Blondes Brewey fulltime this summer. Then I will move to San Diego in September."

She said that she has loved her time with the City and that she is very grateful for the experience of being City Clerk. "But I have acquired institutional knowledge because I started out working for the city six years ago in customer service. At first I was answering phone calls and getting to know the ins and outs of the city, and all that definitely helped. I know that I have become a good resource for the city and I hope I can continue to be after I'm gone."



Mayor Annie Brown has high praise for Kiker. "Megan's departure is a huge loss for the City of South Haven," Brown said. "She is the kind of City Clerk who can keep all the plates spinning without any falling to the floor."

Among the plates she kept spinning as part of her job was overseeing elections. "She is amazing at running elections," Brown added, "as well as working at every city council meeting to keep the minutes, monitor the time limits on public comments, and keeping track of motions and voting."

The mayor not only appreciated her hard work and her knowledge of election laws, but she said that Kiker has a "wonderful personality that supports our city's goal of being a welcoming community."

"Our entire staff will miss her," Mayor Brown said.

Committee of the Whole discusses funding for lifeguard program

By James Windell

Who starts a program without figuring out how to pay for it?

That was a question raised by more than one South Haven resident after the City Council approved starting a lifeguard program and the announcement that a Chief Lifeguard had been hired.

The question of how the lifeguard program would be funded was a main item on the agenda of the City Council's Committee of the Whole (COW) at their meeting on March 16, 2026.

As the discussion began, the COW was joined via phone by a consulting partner, Tom Neff of Traffic and Safety Solutions. The first option for funding of the lifeguard program was related to parking and Neff said that "80% occupancy" was cited as a standard target. "Eighty percent occupancy," he said, "was high enough to avoid being totally full, while ensuring drivers can still reliably find a space."

One proposal that was discussed was for a beach parking fee change for daily and weekly parking. The existing 3-year annual permit is not being changed this year. That is, the annual permit will be sold at $80, with one year remaining on the current cycle. The staff stated that nearby communities, such as Muskegon, St. Joseph, and New Buffalo, had higher parking rates and the current local rates and fines in South Haven are out of step.

Neff explained that the revenue goal is to fund beach operations, set aside capital for improvements, and cover a lifeguard program. Statistics were cited showing that in 2024 there were 47,440 daily passes purchased at $10 each. This generated $474,400 in parking fee revenue. However, the lifeguard program is likely to cost about $600,000 for the first year.

The funding of the lifeguard program seemed to come down to two options. The first option would be to charge $3 an hour for parking. Assuming 505 spaces, 9 hours per day for 123 days, and 80% utilization, the estimated revenue would be $1,341,684. The second option would be charging $2 an hour for parking but extending the paid parking hours to 8:00 pm (rather than the current 6:00 pm), which is estimated to raise $1,093,000 in revenue.

Also, City Council members and staff discussed increasing parking fines from the current $20 to about $45. Some members commented that a $20 fine is not a deterrent and that some visitors reportedly find it easier to park illegally and just pay the fine. The Council was reminded by staff that fines should primarily drive compliance rather than act as a revenue tool.

Various future directions were discussed, but City staff requested guidance in terms of adding stronger tools in an ordinance (for example, towing authority or other consequences) so that ticket nonpayment has "bite."

City Council members seemed to lean toward keeping hours the same and adopting the $3 an hour parking option without changing the hours for paid parking. Staff pointed out that any changes will require bringing back a parking resolution for City Council action.

South Haven convenience store incurs heavy fire damage

A southside commercial establishment was extensively damaged by fire on Thursday morning.

South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) responded to a report of a structure fire at the A&D One Stop, 883 Indiana Ave., at 8:20 a.m.

A&D One Stop is a neighborhood convenience store that has been located at the southside location for several years.

Firefighters arrived to find heavy smoke and fire coming from the attic. A second alarm brought Bangor Community and Covert Township firefighters to the scene.

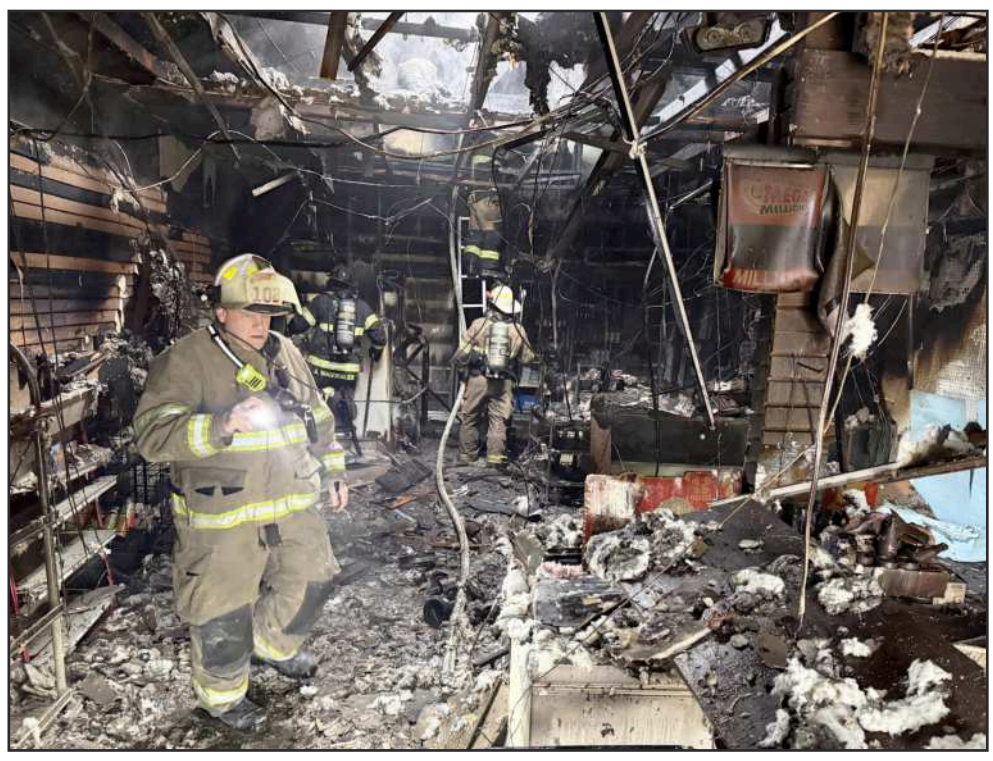
The business was not open at the time. The owner reported being in the building about 30 minutes before the alarm.

A nearby attached short-term-rental suffered smoke damage, but was saved from the flames.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

South Haven Police Department and South Haven Board of Public Works assisted at the scene.

Photos courtesy South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES)



South Haven City Council approves ordinance amendments

By James Windell

The South Haven City Council approved two ordinance amendments at its regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026.

But the passage of these two amendments did not come about quite as easy as it may seem.

Item number 11 on the City Council's agenda at this meeting was the consideration of an ordinance to amend Section 62-27 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of South Haven. The amendment to section 62-27 of the Code of Ordinances would allow for a single person to hold multiple municipal offices. City staff proposed an amendment in order to allow a person to serve on more than one board or committee. The amendment was intended to change the section which prior to this meeting prohibits a planning commissioner from holding another municipal office.

The concern was that the ordinance would keep qualified people from holding two municipal offices, especially on commissions or boards, such as the Planning Commission, which requires specialized knowledge.

In the discussion prior to voting, Councilwoman Mary Hosley expressed her opposition to this amendment. "In my experience," Hosley said, "there are more people available than there are openings on the Planning Commission. By not having people on two commissions allows more people to be engaged."

City Council member Tom Capps said that he supports the amendment and stated that "you should always look for the best person to do the job." He added: "The Planning Commission is very complicated, and it steers our whole system where we're going and you do have to be qualified. Just because you have applicants doesn't mean they are qualified to do the job."

The discussion then veered off into what makes a person qualified to serve on the Planning Commission and what training they need. In addition, Councilwoman Wilkins said there should be more transparency about qualifications people need to be considered for the Planning Commission. Hosley made a motion to amend the amendment by restricting dual membership to only the Planning Commission and either the Zoning Board of Appeals or the Construction Board of Appeals. That amendment was voted down.

A role call vote on the motion to allow individuals to serve on the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions passed.

Following this was an item on the agenda asking that the City Council was asked to consider the adoption of an ordinance to amend Sections 14-501, 14-502, and 14-505 of Chapter 14 of the City's Code of Ordinances. These requestions amendments were made to address the backlog of zoning compliance determination (ZCD) applications under the new Short-Term Rental (STR) licensing program.

This matter was previously addressed by the City Council because of the backlog in inspecting and relicensing STRs. The staff has determined that it will be impossible to register all of the more than 700 STRs by May 1, 2026. The proposed amendment would allow for STRs to become conditionally registered by December 31, 2026. Once conditionally licensed, the application process remains the same as initially announced last year and the required ZCDs and inspections will be completed at a manageable pace. The proposed language in the amendment also removes insurance indemnification provision upon the advice of several insurance agents.

After a motion was made by Councilman David Flack to approve the amendments, and that motion was seconded, member Hosley moved to amend the amendments by inserting the language that all applications must be submitted by June 1, 2026. After staff gave their rationale for not having a deadline other than December 31, 2026, a vote was held and the Hosley amendment failed.

A roll call vote on Flack's motion to approve the amendments was held and the motion carried. This allows for conditional licenses for STRs awaiting approval of their application.

Finally, there was one other significant piece of business carried out by the City Council at this meeting. The council was tasked with actions regarding redevelopment of the Overton site at 229 Elkenburg with Dwelling Place of Grand Rapids. First, the council needed to hold a public hearing on the proposed Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement, Second, they needed to consider adoption of Resolution 2026-10. This resolution would approve a PILOT Agreement with Dwelling Place.

South Haven recently adopted an ordinance amending Article VI of Chapter 22 of the City Code of Ordinances which authorizes the City Council to enter into a PILOT agreement granting any of the tax exemptions established under section 15a of state housing development authority act of 1966.

When the public hearing opened, no residents appeared to comment on the proposed PILOT agreement. A motion was then made by Mary Hosley to adopt Resolution 2026-10, the resolution approving a Payment of Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with Dwelling Place. There was no discussion and the motion was passed by a voice vote.

According to a representative from Dwelling Place, Dwelling Place is finalizing the documents needed for an April 1, 2026, submission to Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Obtaining the PILOT agreement with South Haven is seen as a critical step in the process of securing funding for the Overton project.

Road Commission receives $351k for Blue Star Trail project

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

LANSING - The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has announced the commitment of $6 million in federal funds for six Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grants. At this stage, MDOT is issuing conditional commitments reserving federal transportation funds designated by Congress for state-approved projects.

The Van Buren County Road Commission (VBCRC) was one of six recipients. It received a grant totaling $351,828 for the Blue Star Trail. The project work will include separated pathway construction.

VBCRC Manager Bret Witkowski said of the announcement, "I would like to congratulate 'Friends of Blue Star Highway' who have been raising funds privately for this project and for the match for the grant. To be chosen as only one of six grant applicants across the entire state says a lot about Friends of Blue Star Highway, the staff at VBCRC and staff at Abonmarche who are working together to make it safer for those who will travel along this route, which is 0.4 of a mile from the Kal-Haven Trail to Baseline Road."

"MDOT is ecstatic to announce the next round of truly worthy projects in this latest TAP cycle, providing long-term social impact," State Transportation Director Bradley C. Wieferich said. "One of the key projects builds a critical connection for vulnerable road users to access the new Gordie Howe International Bridge in Detroit, while simultaneously fostering shared community and international ties."

News Briefs

Lawrence UMC to hold comedy night

LAWRENCE - The Lawrence United Methodist Church will host Unequally Joked, a comedy night presented by Stand Up Therapy Live, Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the church, 122 S. Exchange St. Lawrence. Tickets are $15, or $30 for VIP, and will be available at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information, visit: standuptherapylive/date-night.

Gold Star Memorial Monument Committee to hold fundraiser

DECATUR - The Paw Paw Gold Star Memorial Monument Committee will hold a Sloppy Jo Fundraising Dinner, Tuesday, March 31, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Decatur VFW Post 6248, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

SHAES saves animals in Casco fire

Each working fire response poses its own unique challenge. On Friday it was an inaccessible muddy road leading to a burning out-building in Casco Township.

SHAES responded at 8:20 a.m. to reports of a building fully engulfed in flames at 71st Street along Interstate 196.

The fire could not be reached with vehicles forcing firefighters to stretch hundreds of feet of hose while slogging thru the mud from the roadway to the scene.

Several goats, a horse and a dog escaped the flames.

(Photos courtesy South Haven Area Emergency Services)

World War II veteran celebrates 100th birthday

The Decatur Veterans of Foreign Wars 6248 celebrated the birthday of World War II veteran George Massura on Sunday, March 22. Massura, seated, is shown with VFW National Council member Kevin Conklin, at right, and at left, VFW State Commander Reinold Yanka. Photo courtesy, Decatur VFW Post 6248

Bangor's Church of Christ celebrates 150th anniversary

By James Windell

The year was 1876 and America was celebrating its centennial; Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call; Mark Twain published The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; baseball's National League was founded – laying the groundwork for modern Major League Baseball.

And in Bangor, Michigan, Elder John Hiram "Harmon" Reese organized the Christian Church Society on March 22, 1876 – with 14 members.

On Sunday, March 22, 2026, the Bangor Church of Christ, 214 N. Walnut Street, Bangor, celebrated its 150th anniversary.

With sunlight streaming through the church's stain glassed windows, Pastor Nathan Umbanhowar delivered a sermon in which he reflected on some of God's masterpieces. He referred to Bangor's Church of Christ as a masterpiece that has survived a fire, two world wars and the Great Depression to endure as a place where the community can come together.

At the Bangor City Council meeting on March 16, 2026, Mayor Lynne Farmer issued a proclamation honoring the Bangor Church of Christ and calling it the church that "rose up from the ashes."

Farmer was referring to a fire on March 9, 1924, that destroyed the church. The only thing saved was the bell. However, moving services to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge of Bangor, the congregation and the town came together to rebuild the church. It was dedicated on December 9, 1924 – just eight months after the fire.

"The Bangor Christian Church building that rose up from the ashes has stood the test of time," notes Mayor Farmer. "As the number of members grew over the years, the need for additional space was necessary."

On April 10, 1966, the members of the church held another groundbreaking ceremony to build an addition to the original 1924 sanctuary building. Construction began the first week of May and the building was dedicated on January 22, 1967. That addition housed a new fellowship hall, an up-to-date kitchen, restrooms and a pastor's study on the ground floor and six large classrooms on the second floor.

Thanks to Elder Reese, who was with the church from its beginning until 1896, that fledgling Church of Christ of Bangor grew over the years and now – a century and a half later – and having rebuilt from a devastating fire, the church is being lauded as the oldest church in the area.

Elder Doug Umbanhowar, who says he has been a member of the Bangor Church of Christ his entire life offered his opinion on how the church has survived for a century and a half. "It's through faith and the individuals who keep it going," he said.

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South Haven High School graduate has her symphony performed

To listen to her composition "Dragonmount," find it at https://youtu.be/R7lqjPROU18?si=aj7Kq8wEZ_5WllY6

By James Windell

When Ilona Fiedorowicz was a student at Baseline Middle School, she thought it would be a good joke to write a composition with lots of discord.

"But I really liked writing it," says Ilona Fiedorowicz, now a junior at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, "I enjoyed writing it so much that I went back and put a little more effort into it."

At about the same time, she had a piano book of the music from video games that she liked and she started arranging the pieces for an orchestra. "My arrangements weren't very good," Fiedorowicz remembers with a laugh, "but that really got me interested in composition."

Fiedorowicz grew up in South Haven with a mother, Jessica, who is the director of orchestras for South Haven High School. Her mother was her first cello teacher.

"Starting when she was in the Fifth Grade, I was her orchestra teacher and her first cello teacher," Jessica Fiedorowicz says. "Later in middle school we started getting her private cello lessons."

After playing in the South Haven High School orchestra, she was awarded a music scholarship to Baldwin Wallace University, a college known for its strong programs in music and the performing arts. Ilona is majoring in both performance and composition. As an assignment she had to write a composition for orchestra. The result was a symphony called "Dragonmount," which was performed by the Baldwin Wallce Symphony Orchestra on February 20, 2026.

The eight-minute symphony was based on the prologue to the fantasy series of books by Robert Jordan called the "Wheel of Time." Opening thousands of years before the main story, the prologue tells what it is like at the end of a cataclysmic war called the War of the Shadow. The world is in ruins and the main character, Lews Therin Telamon, known as The Dragon, has been driven insane by the Dark One's taint. He wanders through the ruins of his once-beautiful palace, unable to recognize that he was responsible for atrocities.

"I don't want to get too gory in describing the prologue," Ilona says, "but the main character realizes the power in his hands and he wants to draw the power in from the One Power. A lightening bolt shoots down and creates a towering volcanic mountain – Dragonmount. It's very dramatic."

She and the school's symphony orchestra had three weeks to rehearse her composition. During that time, she had an opportunity to make revisions to her work. "Although I play cello in the orchestra, sometimes I sat out of the orchestra in order to hear things," she says. "We could make a few changes in balance. For instance, in one section we had the whole orchestra play instead of just the violin section in order to make the moment more dramatic."

Ilona says that when it comes to writing nonclassical music she is primarily influenced by the sound tracks of John Williams and Howard Shore. Shore is a Canadian composer best known for creating the iconic film scores for "The Lord of the Rings" and "The Hobbit" trilogies – both regarded as some of the greatest achievements in modern film music. When it comes to classical music, she says that she is inspired by Debussy. "However," she adds, "I listen to John Corigliano's first symphony. I think it is rhythmic and it feels like full acceleration by the full orchestra."

Ilona indicates that she is very pleases with selecting Baldwin Wallace for her undergraduate education. "The teachers are very understanding of what I'm doing," she says. "For instance, my cello teacher helps me write cello music and my composition teachers are interested in the way I play."

Although she is planning on going to graduate school, she's not sure which universities she may be applying to this summer. She is certain, though, that she will be studying composition wherever she goes to school. "I'm hoping to keep playing cello and I find it helpful to play music I write that nobody hears," she says. "While I really enjoy playing the cello in ensembles, I want to teach composition to college students in the future."

South Haven begins a discussion on the city's top priorities

James Windell

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According to a representative from Dwelling Place, Dwelling Place is finalizing the documents needed for an April 1, 2026, submission to Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Obtaining the PILOT agreement with South Haven is seen as a critical step in the process of securing funding for the Overton project.

Trinity students learn Michigan history

Third grade students at Trinity Lutheran School, Paw Paw, recently completed their studies of Michigan Pioneers in their Michigan History class with a Pioneer Tea. Students made butter and enjoyed homemade bread and cinnamon rolls. Directed by their teacher, Deanna Hindenach, the students entertained their families and guests from the Paw Paw District Library with facts about the early pioneers who came to Michigan in the 1850s. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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SHHS junior swimmer wins all-state honors

South Haven High School junior Zander Duncan (pictured) achieved All-State honors in two events this past weekend at the MHSAA Division 3 State Championships held at the Holland Aquatics Center.

He finished fifth among 42 competitors in the 100 butterfly with a season-best time of :51.32 and sixth in the 200 individual medley among 39 swimmers behind a school record clocking of 2:01.41.

Freshman Calvin Dissette competed in two events, finishing 25th in the 200 individual medley (2:10.02) and 34th in the 100 breaststroke (1:06.32).

The relay team of Carson Dissette, Calvin Dissette, Julius Filbrandt and Zander Duncan finished 19th in the 200 free relay (1:33.74) and 21st in the 200 medley relay (1:45.83)

Wilson coaching South Haven softball

Sofia Grieves is a key player for South Haven.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Coach Wilma Wilson's softball team was undefeated SAC Lakeshore division champions and district champions last season.

Key graduates were Madi Dotson, Grace Strebeck and Molly Verseput who respectively were catcher, shortstop, and pitcher

"They were great hitters and huge contributors that we will miss," Wilson said. "Senior pitcher Addison Dekoning will take on key pitching role and be a hitter. Junior Sofia Grieves is also a pitcher and strong hitter."

Also key players are junior Reagan Hahn, catcher, 3B, power hitter and sophomore Mady Duda, catcher, CF, utility IF, strong hitter.

"We expect to compete," Wilson said. "It is always a goal to win conference and compete in state tournament. We are returning seven key players from last year's squad.

"We have a small team. We hope to highly contend in our division. We will see competition from oloma, Bridgman, and Watervliet."

Seniors are: Erin Bos, Addison deKoning and Mia Holtmann. Juniors are Sofia Grieves and Reagan Hahn.

Sophomores are Kiersten Chalupa, Mady Duda and Julia Wiley. Freshmen are Carly Crawford, Hadley Spencer and Aubrey Taylor.

Lawrence track has high hopes

Carolina Mancera (senior) plays basketball for Lawrence, but will once again lead the track team in the throws.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Tony DeVauld will be coaching a Lawrence track team that has high hopes for the season.

"Last season was a major step forward for our programs," DeVauld said. "We had three athletes qualify for the MHSAA State Finals: Carolina Mancera in the discus — her second straight trip — along with Hailey Camp in the long jump and Dillon Simpson in the high jump. Both our boys and girls teams showed strong improvement throughout the year, with the girls finishing 4-4-1 and the boys at 2-7. We also continued to expand our roster, which has allowed us to fill more events and compete more effectively against schools in our conference that traditionally have much larger numbers.

"Over the last two years our team has grown steadily, and that growth has translated into better depth, more competitive performances, and a strong foundation to build on moving into this season. We graduated a very talented senior group last season, and each of them played a major role in the growth of our program. On the girls side, Hailey Camp was a key relay runner in the 4x100, 4x200, and 4x400 while also excelling in the long jump, where she qualified for the state finals. Leslie Reed was our top sprinter, leading us in the 100, 200, 4x100, and 4x200, and she brought a strong competitive edge to every meet. Kelsey Harroun was another important relay contributor who provided consistency and reliability throughout the season.

"On the boys side, Dillon Simpson was one of our most versatile athletes, competing in the long jump, discus, and 300 hurdles, and consistently stepping into whatever role the team needed. Gabe Zapata was our lead distance runner and set the tone every day with his work ethic and competitiveness. This senior group put in a tremendous amount of work and stepped up in countless ways to help drive the success of our team."

On the girls side, "we return several athletes who will play major roles for us this season. Carolina Mancera (senior) will once again lead us in the throws, competing in the discus, shot put, and contributing on the 4x400 and 4x200 relays," DeVauld said. "She has been one of our most consistent performers and we expect her to continue building on her success. Kaylin Leyva (senior) will be an important piece in our short-to-mid distance relays and will take on a bigger role in the 400 this year. Colleen McCaw (junior) returns as our primary sprint specialist and will anchor our efforts in the 100, 200, and sprint relays. We also have a strong young distance runner in freshman Mariana Vinaja, who placed at regionals last year as an eighth grader and is poised for another big step forward.

"On the boys side, we return Alex Gardner (senior) in the shot put and discus, and he is looking to build off a strong season in the throws. Stephen Pavelek (junior) will be a key contributor in the mid-distance events and relays, providing experience and consistency. Freshman Evan Broyles is an emerging distance runner who has the potential to make an immediate impact. We also return Robert Palacios (junior), who ended last season with continuous PRs in the distance events and is expected to carry that momentum into this year."

Expectations are high. "This season, our expectations center around consistency, steady improvement, and creating an environment where athletes enjoy the process," DeVauld said. "We want our team to focus on breaking personal records throughout the year while maintaining a positive, competitive atmosphere. Above all, we want our athletes to have fun, support each other, and continue building the strong culture we've developed over the past few seasons.

"One of our biggest strengths this season will be the depth we have across multiple event groups. Our relay teams continue to be a strong point for both the boys and girls, and we return a talented group of throwers who can consistently score for us. We also have a new young group of runners who bring a lot of potential and energy to the program, along with noticeable growth in our distance numbers, which gives us more flexibility and competitiveness in those events. Overall, our team is built on hard work, steady improvement, and a willingness to push each other, which should help us continue moving in the right direction."

What are some things this team needs to work on?

"As a team, one of our biggest areas of focus this season is building confidence across all event groups. We have a young roster in several spots, and continued development, both technically and mentally, will be important as the year goes on. As our athletes gain experience and grow together, we expect to see steady progress and stronger performances throughout the season," DeVauld replied.

Gobles softball team expects to be strong again

Erica Barber was a key graduate for Gobles last season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Megan Ivester is coaching a Gobles softball team which won conference and districts and lost to Mendon in the Regionals

And finished the season 23-7.

Key graduates included Erica Barber – Pitcher / IF – Stress fracture during the season but showed some grit and came back to play. Provided incredible defensive and offensive power that will be missed.

Key players for Gobles will be:

Kylee Killeen – OF / P – Senior – 4 year varsity Starter – 1st team all state

Daisy Jackson – SS/3rd/C – Senior – 4 year varsity started – 1st team all state

Riley Johnson – 3rd Base – Sophomore – All Region

Kelsee Sherrod – Pitcher – Freshmen

"We have high expectations for our team this season. We've intentionally built a tougher schedule to challenge ourselves and prepare for strong competition. We have all returning starters with the great addition of freshmen, Kelsee Sherrod to bring some incredible skills to the pitching circle," Investor said.

"Many of our players bring great skill, athleticism, and a true love for the game, and we believe those qualities will help us compete at a high level and have a successful sease

Offensively leadersKylee Killen (.661 Avg.) Daisy Jackson (.615 Avg.) Riley Johnson (.588 Avg) and Junior Rosie Bowman – Catcher (.371 Avg) will continue to provide a solid offense. The team had a team average of .408 offensively and hopes to continue to build on that.

"Defensively we have a lot of options and debt within our 11 players to be flexible and adjust. Along with Killeen pitching, Kelsee Sherrod brings pitching strength to the field we haven't had in a while. She is experienced for a freshmen, competitive and ready to work knowing she has a great defense being her," Ivester said.

"One of the biggest areas our varsity softball team needs to continue developing is grit and mental toughness. We want to become a team that can stay composed, confident, and competitive even when we're behind. Learning how to push through adversity, support each other, and battle back in tough situations will be key to our growth and success this season.

"Our conference (SAC) consists of Martin, Galesburg Augusta and Delton Kellogg. Saugatuck and Black River were not able to field softball teams so it is important to play are game each double header in conference."

Lawton track teams set to be strong

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Coach Mike Meyer figures on having strong Lawton boys and girls track programs this season.

Lawton last year had five all-state athletes in five events at the D3 State Finals with five school records broken during season (shot put, discus, 100m, 200m, 4x100 relay)

The girls had two state qualifiers (300m LH and pole vault),

Key graduates for Lawton were:

Mason Mayne – 2x state champion in discus & 1x state champion in shot put.

Tim Willoughby – part of 4x100 All-State relay team.

Megan Robertson – 4x state qualifier in pole vault.

Gabby Holloway – hurdler & high jumper, state qualifier Senior year in 300m LHs

Tiara Ellis – 4-year sprinter. Very good athletes that ran many events.

Alyssa McNally – 4-year sprinter and pole vaulter now vaulting at Kalamazoo College

Top athletes this season include;

Dillon Carlson (10th) – hurdler; Jack Fletcher (12th) – sprinter; Tyler Hotchkiss (11th) – sprinter; Rocky Karsen (12th) – thrower; Mauricio Martinez (12th) – sprinter; Caiden Mitchell (12th) – thrower; Peyton Bell (11th) – distance runner; Belle Karsen (12th) – thrower; Daisy Karsen (10th) – sprinter and pole vaulter; Payton VanPeteghem (11th) – distance; Anika Weurding (11th) - distance,

"We look for the kids to compete at a high level and have a lot of fun doing it," Meyer said. "We are in probably top to bottom one of the toughest small-school conferences in the state every year. Not quite sure who the favorites might be this year. I hope we fit in towards the top but we will see."

Gobles girls earn all-conference honors

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — It was a very impressive girls basketball season for Gobles with three girls in particular planking a key role.

Kylee Killeen averaged 16.5 points, 10 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 3.5 steals per game. She had a season high 28 points, 19 rebounds, six assists and 10 steals.

"Kylee was our floor general. When we needed a basket we looked to Kylee," Greg Barker said.

Daisy Jackson averaged 11.3 points, six rebounds, 3.1 assists and 3.9 steals per game.

Ellie Wood averaged 11.9 points, 7.7 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.7 steals per game.

Gobles finished the season with a 15.8 record and was 6-4 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Gobles won its district with wins over Coloma 50-21 and Watervliet 40-32. Gobles lost a regional semifinal game one March 9 to Nile Brandywine.

Paw Paw girls win soccer opener

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw Lady Wolves started the 2026 soccer season last week, facing Hartford at home and won 5-0.

Leah Graves jumped out to a quick start scoring the first goal. Victoria Lopez scored a long range goal, making it 2-0 going into half.

Amelia Curtis opened up the scoring in the second half. Then followed it up with a great left footed shot for a 4-0 advantage.

Sophia Ranger rounded out the scoring with the last goal of the night, making it 5-0 at the end of the match.

Zoey Bridges got the shutout in the net.

Paw Paw was set to play Mattawan on Wednesday, March 25. Mattawan lost 1-0 to Plainwell on March 20 in its opener.

Paw Paw will play on April 7 at Battle Creek Harper Creek

Bangor baseball eyes 20-win season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Coach:-Nick Cox is leading a Bangor baseball team which had a 17-19 record and started off the season at 4-0.

"Julian Pullins was the only senior we lost last year," Cox said. "We will miss his leadership and fun spirit. He also was top four in batting average and second in stole bases."

Key returners are:

Jaxon Webb 12th CF/P; Terrance Payne 12th P/3B/1B; Wyatt Schneider 12th 2B/P/OF; Nick Hardester 12th 1B

Brendon Jackson 12th P/C/DH; Jorge Dominguez 12th 3B/P; Jaret McCoy 11th SS/P; Luke Remington 11th C/P; Carson Pullins 11th P/OF; Isaiah Irvine 11th P/MIF.

"We expect to complete in every game and end the season with over 20 wins this season," Cox said. "Our strength will be experience, speed, and depth. We need to grow our baseball IQ this season.

"Our conference has a strong group of solid baseball players with a handful of preseason All-Staters. I would have to say Decatur is ranked in the top 5 for D4 so I would have to say they are the favorite. I believe we will finish in the top half of our conference.

"We will be heading into the season with great numbers and high hopes of possibly having the one of the most successful season in Bangor baseball history. We are hoping to build some excitement for the community of Bangor with baseball this season. Some of the players will be headed out to the Houston Texas area to practice/team bonding at the end of this week for spring break. We will also be hosting an Autism Awareness game in May."

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VIEWPOINT

Scrap current system if we can't figure out how to pay TSA agents

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

This logjam that has TSA agents not being paid is absurd. We are now going on week 5 and those providing security at the nation's airports- our TSA agents haven't been paid. That's because they are beholden on Congress to fund their paychecks and because of the partial government shutdown due to Republicans or Democrats willing to compromise, they don't get paid.

Last weekend Elon Musk offered to pay them. What a generous offer, but even that seemingly innocent gesture has one side of the aisle up in arms.

My suggestion is that we lock Thune, Schumer and other Senate leaders in a room and don't let them out until they can compromise and end this partial shutdown. Do not provide food. Do not provide drink other than water. Let them talk face to face across from the table to one another instead of making unrealistic demands to reporters.

If this doesn't work then I would try something drastic.

The ongoing strain on the Transportation Security Administration workforce—manifesting in long lines, inconsistent screening times, and frustrated travelers—has exposed a deeper issue: a one-size-fits-all federal bureaucracy trying to manage a dynamic, high-pressure environment that varies wildly from airport to airport.

So here's a more disruptive idea—one that will make some uncomfortable, but deserves serious consideration: privatize airport security, and make screeners employees of the airlines themselves.

At first glance, that sounds radical. But step back and think about incentives.

Right now, TSA employees answer to Washington. Their performance is judged through layers of bureaucracy, union rules, and federal oversight. But airlines? They live and die by efficiency, customer experience, and on-time departures. If security screening became their responsibility, delays wouldn't just be an annoyance, they'd be a direct hit to the bottom line.

That changes everything.

Airlines would have every reason to fully staff checkpoints, invest in better technology, and streamline processes. A backed-up security line wouldn't be blamed on "the government"—it would be their problem to solve immediately. Competition could even drive innovation, as airlines and airports look for faster, safer, and more customer-friendly ways to move people through screening.

There is precedent for this kind of model. Through the TSA's own Screening Partnership Program, some U.S. airports already use private contractors under federal oversight. Internationally, many countries rely on private or semi-private screening systems that function efficiently without sacrificing safety.

Of course, this idea comes with real concerns.

Security is not the same as baggage handling or boarding procedures. It's a core national security function. Handing that responsibility—even partially—to private employers raises questions about consistency, training, and accountability. The last thing anyone wants is a race to the bottom on safety in the name of cutting costs.

But privatization doesn't have to mean deregulation.

The federal government could and should still set strict security standards, conduct audits, and enforce compliance. Think of it as shifting operations, not abandoning oversight. Airlines would execute; the government would regulate. Fail to meet the standard? Lose the contract, face penalties, or worse.

And let's be honest: the current system isn't exactly immune to inconsistency either.

In fact, one of the biggest frustrations travelers face today is the unpredictability. Some airports run smoothly; others feel like gridlock. A decentralized, performance-driven model could actually bring more accountability, not less.

There's also a workforce question. Transitioning TSA employees into airline or contractor roles would need to be handled carefully, with protections for pay, benefits, and job security. The goal isn't to punish workers, it's to empower a system that lets them succeed in a more responsive environment.

At its core, this debate isn't about ideology. It's about results.

If Washington can't fix the staffing and efficiency problems plaguing airport security, then alternatives should be on the table. Whether it's locking lawmakers in a room until they compromise, entertaining outside financial support from figures like Elon Musk, or rethinking the structure entirely through privatization, the message should be clear: doing nothing is no longer acceptable.

Air travel is too important to the economy, to national security, and to everyday Americans to be held hostage by dysfunction.

If privatizing TSA operation leads to shorter lines, better service, and maintained safety, then it's not a radical idea.

It's a practical one whose time may have come.

County Sheriff's Office K-9 receives vest

"I want to give a big thank you to Spikes K-9 Fund for our newest K-9 vest for Charlie. Spikes K-9 Fund was founded by retired Special Warfare Operator, James Hatch. They have donated 1,596 vests to assist working dogs like ours. It is a ballistic and stab proof vest which was custom fit as well as designed to help keep him cool. If we would have had to purchase it, they cost approximately $3,500," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's deputies recovered a stolen vehicle out of Allegan County that was abandoned at a location in Bloomingdale Township. The property owners called it in as it was abandoned on their property and didn't know whose it was or why it was there.

Deputies handled numerous crashes on Interstate 94 highway which involved nearly 60 vehicles that had crashed in a very short time frame. Several semis were jackknifed, cars were in the cable barriers, multiple vehicles were piled into each other, etc. "The highway needed to be closed in different locations to get the vehicles removed safely and avoid more crashes. The largest pile up included 20 vehicles. The three major locations of the crashes were at the 52 mm, 55 mm, and 56 mm. Fortunately, there were no fatalities during the crashes/pile ups. Weather conditions, speed, and road conditions were the factors causing these to take place," said Sheriff Abbott.

Sheriff's deputies handled an attempted scam in which the scammer identified as a Walmart investigator. "The suspect advised the attempted victim someone tried to fraudulently use their credit card on Walmart online. The suspect attempted to get credit card information, fortunately, the individual didn't have credit cards and knew this was a scam. The suspect also tried to get checking and investment account numbers and was asking for personal information. No funds were stolen and the attempted victim called their bank to lock down all their accounts," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled an arson/suspicious fire which was at the Breedsville Post Office. A suspect was developed during the investigation. "The fire was not still going upon the arrival of our office and the fire department," said Sheriff Abbott. The report was sent to the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Office for review to obtain charges.

"Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Detective Chris Orr did a presentation at the Bloomingdale High School. Detective Orr presented different information to parents and students about internet safety and responsible cellphone use. The information focused on protecting personal information, recognizing online risks, and making smart decisions in today's world. As always, our office appreciates the opportunity to engage with the community and help keep our youth safe both online and offline," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Office of Domestic Preparedness along with our School Resource Deputies (SRDs), School Resource Officers (SROs) from other agencies, and Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) Emergency Management staff attended tornado drills at schools across Van Buren County as part of the Statewide Tornado Drill this past week. Everything went off smoothly. These drills are done in case of an actual emergency, so everyone is prepared for what to do. Thank you to everyone who was involved in this drill," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Road Commission lifted the weight restrictions Monday, March 23, at 6 a.m.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to Holtec, nuclear energy far better than alternatives

Dear Editor,

I do hope that Holtec will be successful in restarting the Palisades Nuclear Plant which sits on 40 some acres (a baseload plant). Decommissioning and sitting idle seems like such a waste. I worked there for almost 30 years and it was the safest place I ever worked. When something needed repair they shut the plant down and fixed what needed to be fixed. The original design of the plant was rated at 800 megawatts. Over the years of improvement and upgrades the plant, by the time I retired, it was able to produce 1000 to 1100 megawatts.

It is the first in the USA to take an idle power plant and bring it back to life. Good for you Holtec. Another first in the USA that Holtec has in the plans for the near future is to build 2 new Small Modular Reactors (SMR) that can produce 640 megawatts each (that's megawatts per hour, mega meaning 1 million watts). That means 1280 more megawatts for the power grid on 40 some acres. Good for you Holtec.

The country of France produces 75-80% of their electric power by nuclear power. They also recycle their spent nuclear fuel. They process the spent fuel and recover 90-95% of their spent fuel. The remainder of the spent fuel is encapsulated in glass and put in tubes and sent seven miles below the earth's surface. Holtec, if you are reading this take note, another first for the USA. If that would happen, then there would be no need to dig for Uranium for about 150 years. Talk about saving the planet! Carbon footprint reduced.

Now let's talk about Solar Panels and Wind Turbines. So I'm getting this information from Google, if you trust Google. You could probably get Google to say anything you want. I usually take Google with a grain of salt. Anyway here it goes. For solar panels, it takes seven acres of land to produce 1 megawatt, so to produce 800megawatts you would need 5,600 acres cleared of all trees because solar panels don't work so well in the woods, or at night. 5,600 acres is 1/6th of a county. That's alot compared to 40 some acres.

The solar panels are made mostly of plastic. There are some trace and rare earth minerals. Plastic is made from petroleum products and plastic and rare minerals are hard to recycle, and panels only last 25-30 years (so much for carbon footprint). High winds, tornados and large hailstorms will take them out. Sustainable?

Wind Turbines come in different sizes, The smaller one is an onshore turbine which produces 2-3MWH, so you would need about 267 turbines to produce 800MWH. Using onshore ones, you would have to deal with the trees. Ouch, I like trees. They give you and me oxygen. Larger Offshore Turbines produce 8-15MWH, so you would need about 67 units, (about 10 million dollars each) to produce 800MWH. Think about every 500 yards from Michigan City to Traverse City large Wind Turbines lined up along the Lake Michigan lakeshore. Yikes! The large blades are made of fiberglass which is very difficult to recycle. The lifetime of a turbine is 20-25 years. Most ofthe material used to build that turbine is made from petroleum. Nuclear Power. The better Green New Deal.

Billy Cossey

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OBITUARIES

Anita Jane Thomas (Cook)

Anita Jane Thomas (Cook) passed peacefully from this world to the next after a 98-year life well lived in caring service to others.

Anita resided her entire life in Lawrence Township, Van Buren County, Michigan. She was born on Dec. 29, 1927, to Myron Howard Cook and Cleo Lucille Cook (Jacobs). She attended Lanphear (Lamphere) Country School and Lawrence High School, where she was a stellar student.

On Sept. 30, 1944, she married Leland Earl Thomas, beginning a 60-year journey that included raising three children on their family farm. Over their six decades together, Leland and Anita worked hard. However, they also enjoyed pleasures that included riding their saddle horses and hosting family sleigh rides and hayrides with their team of Percherons.

Anita loved gardening and bird watching. Leland made sure the bird feeders were well placed for her viewing and that the garden was tilled for optimal planting. She liked walking in the woods and hunting for morel mushrooms. Over the years, they enjoyed the companionship of numerous cats and dogs of various breeds. Family gatherings that included wonderful food and fellowship were common in the local extended family. These gatherings often happened at Anita and Leland's table. Especially in their retirement years, it was not unusual for them to take a late-September color tour through northern lower Michigan, across the Mackinac Bridge, and into the Upper Peninsula to celebrate their many years together. A highlight of their later years was a family celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

In addition to traditional wife-and-mother activities, Anita also participated in farm life, helping with haying, maple syrup production, and picking and packing fruits and vegetables for the fresh market. Over the years, she worked off the farm at The Shopping Center, Paw Paw, where she enjoyed helping customers and making many friends in the community.

A Mayflower descendant and a Daughter of the American Revolution, Anita loved to share photographs and stories about her many generations of ancestors in Van Buren County.

She was involved in her local community. For most of her adult life, she was a stalwart member of the O-So-E-Z Club, a local group of women, friends, family, and neighbors who met monthly. An accomplished pianist, Anita played for services at the Lawrence Baptist Church. In later years, she volunteered on the Van Buren County Senior Service Board, the Van Buren District Library, and the Van Buren Historical Society Museum.

Anita was preceded in death by her parents; her four siblings, Bernice Cook Tarantino and spouse Paul Tarantino, John Cook, and Robert Cook; and a granddaughter, Debra Hanson.

Her three children survive her: Sandra (Don) Hanson of Decatur, Michigan; Stanton (Christine) Thomas of Plover, Wisconsin; and Steven (Bonny) Thomas of Siren, Wisconsin.

Anita was especially close to her grandchildren, Scott (Elizabeth) Blakely of New Castle, Pennsylvania; Douglas (Janice) Hanson of Decatur, Michigan; and Shannon (Daniel) Honl of Arlington, Virginia; and to her great-grandchildren, Alexandra (Ryan) Vecella and Caelen Blakely. She treasured the many visits, kindnesses, and family celebrations they shared.

She is also survived by grandchildren, Denise (Brian) Jannopolous and Deidre Hanson; her great-grandchildren, Del (Jacqui) Jolly, Beck Jolly (Gage Vandermeer), Heather Jannopolous, Randy Jannopolous, and Timmy Skates; and her great-great-grandchildren, Ayla, West, Mavis, and Frances.

In addition, there are many dear nieces, nephews, neighbors, and friends whose love and attention she valued greatly. Of special note was her affection for her caregivers Judy, Sarha, Joyce, Teresa, Breanna, Lisa, Sandy, and Carmela, as well as Centrica Care Navigators Hospice (formerly Hospice of Southwest Michigan).

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly suggests memorial contributions in Anita's name to the Lawrence High School Alumni Association (mailed to PO Box 475, Lawrence, MI 49064); the Van Buren County Historical Society (online or by calling (269) 500-1450); or Centrica Care Navigators Hospice (online or mailed to 7100 Stadium Drive, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009).

A memorial service and celebration of Anita's life is scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Decatur VFW, 560 N. Phelps St., Decatur, MI. In the meantime, family and friends are invited to share memories and condolences via the funeral home's online guestbook: http://www.calvin-leonardfh.com/obituaries/anita-thomas.

Marcia Pearl Beach

Marcia Pearl Beach, 73, of Paw Paw, passed away peacefully after a long illness on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Rose Arbor, Kalamazoo. She was born April 25, 1952, in Paw Paw, Michigan, the daughter of Dale Owen Beach and Nellie Mae (Middaugh) Beach.

Marcia was an active member of Calvary Baptist Church, Paw Paw, where she enjoyed attending church services and helping with church activities. She liked to cross-stitch, indulge in a good book, and spend time with her family and friends. Marcia adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her daughters, Carol (Chris) Lassitter and Melissa (Jamie) Dillon; grandchildren, Zack (Bree) Dunnavent, Alexis Lassitter, Jackson Mireles, Eleanor Dillon and Owen Dillon; two great-grandchildren, Naomi and Malcolm Dunnavent; along with her siblings, Sandra Beach, Diana (Terry) Bell, Anna Ronk, Vanessa (Edward) Ignacek, Ken (Gayle) Beach and Spencer Beach.

Marcia was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Theresa Giacalone in 2023, and sister, Teresa Beach.

In accordance with Marcia's wishes, cremation will take place. A graveside service will be held on Friday, March 27, at 3 p.m. at Wildey Cemetery, Paw Paw with the Rev. Ron Kammeraad officiating.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Patricia Ann Green

Patricia Ann Green, 85, of Lawrence, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 16, 2026, at Rose Arbor Hospice, Kalamazoo. She was born May 9, 1940, in Geneva Township, Michigan, the daughter of Rex John Donovan and Lillian Irene (Briggs) Donovan.

Pat graduated from Lawrence High School and attended nursing school after graduation. She was a dedicated labor and delivery nurse who spent 50 years caring for others at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo. She was known for her organization, her love of genealogy, and her frugal but generous nature. She cherished her family deeply and took pride in preserving its history.

She is survived by her loving granddaughter, Taylor Green, and her nephew Dan Siskaninetz and his wife, Paula, along with many other beloved family members.

She was preceded by her parents; her siblings; including Nancy Siskaninetz; her beloved husband, Logan Marshall Green; and her son, James Marshall Green.

In accordance with Pat's wishes, cremation will take place. A graveside service will be held on Friday, March 27, at 1 p.m. at Hill Cemetery, Lawrence with Pastor Steve Starks officiating.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

Van Buren County Republican Party passes resolution defending private property rights

The Van Buren County Republican Executive Committee has officially passed a resolution affirming its strong support for private property rights and local control.

The resolution opposes state-level efforts that would impose high-density housing mandates and limit the ability of local communities to make their own zoning and land use decisions.

The committee emphasized that decisions impacting neighborhoods and rural communities should be made locally—not dictated by state officials or special interests.

"This is about protecting the rights of property owners and preserving the character of our communities," said Chair Douglas Nelson. "We believe strongly that local residents and local officials are best equipped to make decisions that reflect the needs and values of Van Buren County."

The resolution also calls on state lawmakers to reject House Bills 5529–5532 and any similar legislation that removes local zoning authority.

Certified copies of the resolution will be distributed to members of the Michigan House and Senate, the Governor's office, local officials, and Republican Executive Committees across the state to encourage a unified effort in defending local control and private property rights.

For more information, please contact:

VanburencountyGOP@gmail.com

AREA CHURCH SERVICES

PAW PAW

ALMENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
27503 CR 375
Pastor Dan Phillips
668-2811
www.almenaumc.com
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m. (Childcare Provided)
FRIDAY: AA- 8 p.m.

• • • •

COVEY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
33566 28th Avenue
(corner of 28th & M-40)
269-628-2139
www.coveyhill.org
Pastor Daniel Wilson
SUNDAY Worship 10:45am
Nursery & Children's Church provided
Messages available on YouTube

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FAITH OF THE APOSTLES CURCH
34580 M-40 Highway
Elder David Harn
1 (269) 512-4586
SUNDAY
Christian Education - 10 a.m.
Wroship Service - 11:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY • Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
32464 Red Arrow
Pastor Horace M. "Buddy" Turner... 657-2090
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/buddyturner2 or search: "Buddy Turner"

• • • •

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
120 Pine St, Paw Paw
Worship: 10am every Sunday in person or online at - www.pawpawpres.com or www.youtube.com/@1stprespawpaw

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NEW HOPE FAMILY
201 W. Michigan Avenue
Pastor Mark Roberts
www.newhopefellowship.org
SUNDAY Morning Worship - 10 a.m.

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PAW PAW SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CURCH
60409 South M-40
Pastor Sean Reed
Lawn Services - 10am & 11am
www.pawpaw.church
Online worship services on Facebook & YourTube

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PAW PAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-7727
Pastor Dan Phillips
Sunday Service at 9:30 am

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RED ARROW MINISTRIES
31133 Red Arrow Highway
Rev. G. Ben Bowater, IV
Founding Pastor
SUNDAY Worship - 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
www.redarrowministries.org for live stream worship

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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
412 Cedar Street
Handicap Accessible
657-3762 • www.stmarkpawpaw.com
e-mail: stmarkspawpaw@gmail.com
SUNDAY Worship 9:30 a.m.

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ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
500 Paw Paw Street
Fr. Dave Pinto
657-4459
Weekday:
Monday – no Mass
Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 8:00 AM
Wednesday Mass – 9:00 AM
Saturday – 4:00 PM
Sunday – 11:00 AM

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
721 Pine Street
Pastor Phillip Phifer
Church: 657-4840
School: 657-5921
Sunday Services 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

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TRUTH CHURCH
32560 56th Ave. • 657-5042
www.truthchurchpawpaw.com
Pastor Steven Green
SUNDAY
School - 10 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
THURSDAY Bible Study - 7 p.m.

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IGLESIA DEL ESPÍRITU SANTO/ CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
30037 E Red Arrow Hwy.,
Pastors Maggie & Jay Salas
Domingo/Sunday:
Adoración | Worship- 10 a.m.
Jueves/Thursday: Oracion/ Estudió Bíblico | Prayer/Bible Study- 7 p.m.
(269) 377-6514
(269) 993-6727

LAWRENCE

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Corner of Exchange & James Street • 674-8381
Pastor Doug Tipken
SUNDAY Worship - 11 a.m.
lawrencemethodist-church.org for information of online videos

GOBLES

NORTHPOINT MINISTRIES OF GOBLES
04077 M40
269-628-9199
northpointgobles@gmail.com
Pastors: Gary Lounsberry & John Losen Jr.
Sunday: 11am - Morning Worship
Monday: 7 pm - REFRESH Bible Study
Wednesday: 7pm - Prayer Meeting

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ST JUDE' MISSION PARISH
13809 M-40
269-628-2219
Thursday – 10:00 AM
Sunday – 9:00 AM

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GOBLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
210 E. Exchange St., Gobles
(269) 628-2263
Pastor Sheila F. Baker
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship
Children's Sunday School
Website: goblesumc.com
Facebook.com/goblesumc

MARCELLUS

ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH
296 E. Dibble St.
Rev. John Tran.
668-3312
Sunday - 9:45AM
a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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HARMONY CHAPEL
88067 C.R. 652 (In the SW corner of Porter Twp.)
Rev. Ron Packer
269-548-7348
Please join us as we continue to Worship in the Country Since 1894 , SUNDAY Service - 12:30 p.m.
For mor information or directions call: Neal Ferguson: 269-624-6837 or Ann Nesbitt: 269-624-6781

DECATUR

DECATUR BIBLE CHURCH
80797 M-51, Decatur
(269) 423-5111
Pastor Steven Pace
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer 5:00 p.m.
facebook.com/DecaturBibleChurch • http://www.decaturbible.org

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DECATUR NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH
319 ½ West Delaware Street
Pastor Ross Tarantino
SUNDAY
Worship Service-10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY
Bible Study-1:00 p.m.
269-423-8136
info@decaturnewhopecommunity.net

LAWTON

DAILY HARVEST MINISTRIES
117 S.Franklin Street
Pastor Jack Shanley
SUNDAY Worship - 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study - 6 p.m.

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IGLESIA PENTECOSTES
Eel Movimiento misionero Mundial, Inc.
Bilingual
117 S. Franklin Street
Pastors Arturo & Lourdez Hernandez
(616) 656-0137
SERVICES
Domingo - 9:30 a.m.
Martes y Jueves - 7:30 p.m.
Local: (269) 655-8071

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LAWTON EVANGELICAL CHURCH
425 S. Nursery Street, Lawton • 624-1524
Call if you need help in some way
www.lawtonevan.com
SUNDAY Worship Services - 10 a.m.
We offer Nursery and Children's Church

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NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
502 N. Main Street, Lawton, MI 49065
Pastor Adam Potgiesser
Sunday Worship 10am
www.nc2online.com • facebook.com/nc2online
(269) 299-2003

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
624-1050
Pastor Ashlei Horn
SUNDAY Worship - 10:00 a.m.
www.stpoulsumclawton.com or on Facebook www.Facebook.com/Lawton-St-Pauls-UMC

MATTAWAN

CALVARY COMMUNITY CHURCH
7829 S. 5th St
Pastor Gregory VanHeukelom
375-6240
www.calvaryreformed.org
Website: https://www.calvary-community.church/
Worship still 10 am Sunday with live Facebook
Jody's Closet, a free clothing ministry is open Mon/Tue 10am-12 and Thur 6-7:30pm
And the 1st Saturday of the month 8:30-10am.

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FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
56070 Murray Street
Pastor Chuck Rawsthorne
SUNDAY
School - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Service - 10:30 a.m.
(In person and on Facebook)

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MATTAWAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
23680 Front Ave.
668-3263
www.mattawancc.com
mattawancommunitychurch@gmail.com
Pastor Eric Baird
Sundays at 10:25 a.m

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ST. JOHN BOSCO CATHOLIC CHURCH
23830 Front Ave.
Rev. John Tran
668-3312
www.stjbparish.com
Sunday Mass times to 8:00 AM & 11:30 AM Saturday Vigil 4:00PM

DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SERVICES IS PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

HIEMSTRA OPTICAL CO.
Michael Houser & staff
133 E. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-4511

DE SMIA
Insurance Agency, INC.
130 N. Main Street
Lawton • 624-4411

BRONSON LakeView Hospital
408 Hazen Street
Paw Paw • 657-3141

CAMPBELL MURCH CEMETERY MEMORIALS, INC.
56556 Main Street
Mattawan • 668-3350

THE CLOTHES BASKET
314 Paw Paw Street
Paw Paw • 657-6441

ST JULIAN winery • distillery
Michigan's Oldest & Largest Winery
716 S. Kalamazoo Street
Paw Paw • 657-5568

Adams FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
Serving the Community Since 1948
504 W. Michigan Avenue
Paw Paw • 657-6347

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS:

The Kalamazoo County Townships of Brady, Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Cooper, Kalamazoo, Oshtemo, Pavilion, Prairie Ronde, Richland, Ross, Schoolcraft, Texas, and Wakeshma, and the Cities of Galesburg, Kalamazoo, Parchment and Portage; the Barry County Townships of Barry, Johnstown, and Prairieville; the Calhoun County Townships of Bedford, and Leroy, and the City of Battle Creek; the St. Joseph County townships of Leonidas, Mendon, and Park; and the Van Buren County Townships of Almena and Antwerp.

COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO, BARRY, CALHOUN, ST. JOSEPH, AND VAN BUREN STATE OF MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the above named jurisdictions who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township or City Clerk; the Office of the appropriate County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency, or online at **www.Michigan.gov/Voterregistration.** Voters who are already registered may update their registration at **www.expressSOS.com.**

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, April 20, 2026.**

After **Monday, April 20, 2026**, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the locations listed below. Before visiting the office, please confirm office hours by visiting the appropriate website or calling the office. You may register to vote online or download a registration form that can be mailed to the Township or City Clerk by visiting **www.Michigan.Gov/Vote.**

MUNICIPALITY & WEBSITE	ADDRESS	REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS	HOURS ON SATURDAY, MAY 2 OR SUNDAY, MAY 3	HOURS ON TUESDAY, MAY 5
KALAMAZOO COUNTY				
Brady Township www.bradytwp.org	13123 Townline St.,Vicksburg, MI 49097 • (269) 649-1813 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Charleston Township www.charlestontownship.org	1499 South 38th St., Galesburg, MI 49053 • (269) 665-7805 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 12 pm, 1 pm - 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Climax Township www.climaxtownship.org	110 North Main St., Climax, MI 49034 • (269) 746-4103 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday 9 am – 4 pm, Tuesday 9 am – 12 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Comstock Township www.comstockmi.gov	5858 King Highway, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 • (269) 381-2360 Drop Box located at Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8 am – 4:30 pm, Wednesday 8 am - 6 pm, Friday 8 am-12 pm	Saturday, May 2 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Cooper Township www.coopertwp,org	1590 West D Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 • (269) 382-0223 Drop Box located at Township Hall in the brick wall right of front door, available 24 hours	Monday – Friday / 8 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Kalamazoo Township www.ktwp.org	1720 Riverview Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 • (269) 381-8082 Drop Box is located at the Township Hall to the right of the entrance doors, available 24 hours. Additional drop box location: Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Road, available 24 hours.	Monday - Thursday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8:30 am – 4:30 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Oshtemo Township www.oshtemo.org	7275 West Main St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 • (269) 375-4260 Drop Box located at the Township Hall is walk up or drive up, available 24 hours Drop box located in the lobby of the Township Hall isavailable during business hours Additional drop box location: Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Ave, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 8 am – 5 pm, Friday 8 am – 1 pm Closed daily from 1 pm - 2 pm for lunch	Saturday, May 2 7 am – 3 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Pavilion Township www.paviliontownship.com	7510 East Q Ave., Scotts, MI 49088 • (269) 327-0462 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Friday / 9 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Prairie Ronde Township www.prairierondetwp.net	14050 S 6th Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087 • (269) 679-5666 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Call (269) 679-5666	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Richland Township www.richlandtwp.net	7401 North 32nd St., Richland, MI 49083 • (269) 629-4921 Drop Box located inside the foyer of Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday • 8 am – 5 pm	Saturday, May 2 9 am – 5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Ross Township https://rosstownshipmi.gov/	12086 East M-89, Richland, MI 49083 • (269) 731-4888 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday • 9 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Schoolcraft Township www.schoolcrafttownshipmi.gov	50 East VW Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097 • (269) 649-1276 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday • 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Texas Township www.texastownship.org	7227 West Q Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 • (269) 375-1591 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday • 8 am – 5:00 pm Friday 8 am – 12:00 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Wakeshma Township www.wakeshmatownship.com	13988 South 42nd St., Fulton, MI 49052 • (269) 778-3728 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	First & Third Mondays • 9 am - 12 pm	Saturday, May 2 6 am – 10 am, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Galesburg City www.galesburgcity.org/	200 E. Michigan Ave., Galesburg, MI 49053 • (269) 665-7000 Drop Box located at City Hall, available 24 hours	Monday - Thursday • 8 am - 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Kalamazoo City www.kalamazoocity.org	241 West South St., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 • (269) 337-8000 Drop Boxes available 24 hours. Located at: City Hall on the corner of St. Johns Pl & Lovell St. Kalamazoo Dept. of Public Safety- Station 7, 2331 Parkview Ave City of Kalamazoo Public Services Bldg., 415 E. Stockbridge Eastside Comm. Center, 1301 E. Main St. Douglass Comm. Association, 1000 W. Paterson St.	City Hall Office: Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 9 am –5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Parchment City www.parchment.org	650 S. Riverview Dr., Parchment, MI 49004 • (269) 349-3785 Drop Box located at City Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Friday 9 am - 4 pm	Sunday, May 3 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Portage City www.portagemi.gov	7900 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, MI 49002 • (269) 329-4511 **Ballot Drop Boxes:** Portage City Hall 7900 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, Michigan 49002 Directions: 2 Boxes Available - Building Front, And Night Drop Box. Hours: Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week Fire Station #2 6101 Oakland Drive, Portage, Michigan 49024 Directions: Next To The Red Emergency Phone Hours: Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week Fire Station #3 8503 S Sprinkle Road, Portage, Michigan 49002 Directions: Next To The Red Emergency Phone Hours: Available 24 Hours/7 Days a Week	Monday – Thursday 7:30 am – 5:30 pm, Friday 8 am -12 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
BARRY COUNTY				
Barry Township www.barrytownshipmi.com	11300 South M-43, P. O. Box 705, Delton, MI 49046 (269) 623-5171	Wednesday 9 am – 12 pm • 1 pm – 5 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Johnstown Township www.johnstowntwp.org	13641 South M-37, Battle Creek, MI 49017 (269) 721-3710	Monday & Wednesday 8:30 am – 4 pm or by appt.	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Prairieville Township www.prairievilletwp-mi.org	10115 S. Norris Rd., Delton, MI 49046 (269) 623-2664	Tuesday – Thursday 9 am – 12 pm • 1 pm – 5 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
CALHOUN COUNTY				
Battle Creek City www.battlecreekmi.gov	10 N Division St., Battle Creek, MI 49014 • (269) 966-3311 Drop Box Located at City Hall, Available 24 hours	Tuesday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Bedford Charter Township www.bedfordchartertwpmi.gov	115 S. Uldriks Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49037 • (269) 965-1999 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday – Thursday 7am – 3pm	Saturday, May 2 7 am – 3 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Leroy Township www.leroytownship.org	8156 4 Mile Rd., East Leroy, MI 49051 • (269) 979-9421 Drop Box located at Township Hall, available 24 hours	Tuesday – Thursday 9 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 9 am – 5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY				
Leonidas Township	53312 Fulton Rd., Leonidas, MI 49066 • (269) 506-3854 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 am -12 pm Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 am to 12:30 pm	Saturday, May 2 • 9am – 1pm Sunday, May 3 • 1 pm – 5 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Mendon Township www.mendontwp.com	136 W. Main St. Mendon, MI 49072 • (269) 496-7708 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Varies – Please call (269) 496-7708	Saturday, May 2 • 9am – 1pm Sunday, May 3 • 9am – 1pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Park Township www.park-township.org	53640 Parkville Rd. Three Rivers, MI 49093 (269) 816-1137	Varies – Please call (269) 816-1137 Drop Box located at the Township Hall, available 24 hours	Saturday, May 2 • 8am- 12pm Sunday, May 3 • 8am- 12pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
VAN BUREN COUNTY				
Almena Township www.almenatownship.gov	27625 CR., Paw Paw, MI 49079 (269) 668-6910	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am – 4pm	Sunday, May 3 • 8am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm
Antwerp Township www.antwerptownshipmi.gov	2481 Front Ave. Mattawan, MI 49071 (269) 668-2615	Monday – Thursday 7am – 5pm	Saturday, May 2 8 am – 4 pm	7:00 am – 8:00 pm

TDD for all jurisdictions: 1-800-649-3777

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT:

KALAMAZOO REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY (KRESA)
SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL AND RESTORATION PROPOSAL
1.4862 MILLS FOR 6 YEARS AND .0138 MILLS FOR 6 YEARS TO RESTORE MILLAGE REDUCTION

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) Office, 1819 E Milham Ave, Portage, Michigan 49002, telephone: (269) 250-9200.

COLON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL 1.2906 MILLS FOR 8 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Colon Community Schools, 400 Dallas St, Colon, Michigan 49040, telephone: (269) 386-2239.

MATTAWAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL EXEMPTING PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE AND OTHER PROPERTY EXEMPTED BY LAW 19.4227 MILLS FOR 4 YEARS

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Mattawan Consolidated School District, 56720 Murray St, Mattawan, Michigan 49071, telephone: (269) 668-3361.

GALESBURG-AUGUSTA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $11,240,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools,1076 N 37th, Galesburg, Michigan 49053, telephone: (269) 484-2000.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $64,135,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Vicksburg Community Schools, 301 S Kalamazoo Ave, Vicksburg, Michigan 49097, telephone: (269) 321-1000.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED $23,700,000

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Comstock Public Schools, 6138 King Highway, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49048, telephone: (269) 250-8900.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE BONDS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE ELECTORS AT THIS ELECTION, WILL BE GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BONDS PAYABLE FROM GENERAL AD VALOREM TAXES.

CITY OF PORTAGE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the City of Portage offices, 7900 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, Michigan 49002, telephone: (269) 329-4511.

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2026-1039-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of **SALLY KAY YARBROUGH, Deceased**
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, SALLY KAY YARBROUGH, Deceased died December 9, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Robert J. Yarbrough, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E Paw Paw St, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
March 19,2026
Attorney
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave.,
Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative
Robert J. Yarbrough
33555 M-40
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 207-0752

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 2026-20261024-DE
Judge Susan Durian Metzger
Estate of **DONALD HERBERT LYONS**
Date of birth: October 23,1957
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Donald Herbert Lyons died December 31, 2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Melissa Trowbridge, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E Paw Paw St, Paw Paw, MI 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
March 20,2026
Attorney
Albert W. Laaksonen, II
P43920
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative
Brenda Sherburn
51349 Brachetto
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-501-8065

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
Case No. 26-1045-DE
Judge Metzger
Estate of **MICHAEL A. SHERBURN**
Date of birth November 7, 1959
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Michael A. Sherburn, died February 17, 2026.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Brenda Sherburn, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
March 20,2026
Attorney
Albert W. Laaksonen, II
P43920
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative
Brenda Sherburn
51349 Brachetto
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-501-8065

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Trust Estate
Decedent: **KENT W. BRIGHAM**
Date of Birth: July 04, 1938
TO ALL CREDITORS: *
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, **KENT W. BRIGHAM** , who lived at **22727 Sunset Dr Kalamazoo , Michigan 49009,** died **January 07, 2026 .** There is no probate estate.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the **KENT W. BRIGHAM OR THE KENT W. BRIGHAM TRUST** dated March 11, 1999, as amended and restated, will be forever barred unless presented to **Kelly L. Lynk and Glen W. Brigham** the named successor co-trustees within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
3/20/26
Attorney
Morgan Rogalke Scime
P83981
DeMent and Marquardt, P.L.C.
211 East Water Street,
Suite 401
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 343-2106
Co-Trustee
Kelly L. Lynk
325 Cherry Hill
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
269 719 7655
Glen W. Brigham
1917 Dorchester Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269 808 4144

State of Michigan Probate Court
County of Van Buren
Publication of Notice
In the matter of SANDRA N. WILCOX, Deceased
To all interested persons:
Aleksandr Uchytil
whose address(es) are unknown and whose interet in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE:
I, Daniel K. Uchytil, intend to request my informal appointment as personal representative of the estate. A copy of the application is attached. This notice is being served upon each person whose right to an appointment is prior or equal to my own. The court will not act upon my application until 14 days after the date this notice was mailed or until 7 days after this notice was personally served. The actions you may take include:
• Upon paying a filing fee, filing a petition for formal proceedings to appoint a personal representative.
• Upon paying a filing fee, filing an application for informal appointment of yourself as personal representative provided you have a higher priority to be appointed.
• Contacting an attorney for assistance in representing you in any proceeding you wish to file in the court. The court will not be able to provide you with any legal advice in completing or filing the forms.
03/10/2026
Attorney name
John M. Guinan # P64747
12 Washington Ave.
Suite 250
Grand Haven, MI 49417
616.847.1234
Petitioner
Daniel K. Uchytil
7714 Doris Dr.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73162
385.335.1196

STATE OF MICHIGAN 36th CIRCUIT COURT – Van Buren County, 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079; 269-657-8200. To: LEONIDES ALFONSO-PEREZ In Re: MARICELA ARENAS-AGUSTIN v. LEONIDES ALFONSO-PEREZ.
Case No. 25-075219-DC. Take Notice: A Request for Default Entry was filed on December 18, 2025, requesting the clerk to enter the default of Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend as provided by law and stating that the Defendant is not an infant or incompetent person or in the military service. The clerk approved the default entry on December 18, 2025, stating that the default of the Defendant for failure to plead or otherwise defend is entered. A Motion for Entry of Default Judgment was then filed on February 11, 2026, requesting the court to grant Plaintiff sole legal and physical custody of the minor children of the parties, award Defendant no parenting time, and award child support accordingly. A hearing will be held on March 25, 2026, at 1:30 pm before a referee of the Friend of the Court in reference to the Motion for Entry of Default Judgment: Virtual Room A, Meeting ID: 292 853 1976. The result of a failure to answer or appear may be to bar or affect the person's interest in the matter.

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: ZACHARY T DEPIERRE; Atty: Potestivo & Associates - Potestivo & Associates; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 322007; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): ZACHARY T. DEPIERRE, UNMARRIED MAN Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Ark-La-Tex Financial Services, LLC dba Benchmark Mortgage, its successors and assigns Foreclosing Assignee: PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC Date of Mortgage: October 5, 2018 Date of Mortgage Recording: October 10, 2018 Amount claimed due on mortgage on the date of notice: $144,919.88 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: LOT 23, TERRITORIAL CREEK ESTATES 2, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 7 OF PLATS ON PAGE 31, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS Commonly Known as: 22285 Wynsmythe Dr., Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Purchaser: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee for any reason. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest, and the purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: 03/26/2026 Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 251 Diversion Street, Rochester, MI 48307 248-853-4400 322007
(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Roger Miller; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 525440F02; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 30, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Roger Miller, Married Man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 2, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 16, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $195,202.77
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Waverly, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the East 1/4 post of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 14 West, and running thence with bearings referenced to a survey recorded in Liber 1 of Surveys on Page 50, South 89 degrees 58 minutes 56 seconds West along the East and West 1/4 line of the East 1/2 of said Section 963.33 feet; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 43 seconds West 328.90 feet; thence South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 130.09 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds West 149.97 feet; thcncc South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 580.40 feet to the Westerly right of way of M-40 Highway; thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2241.83 feet, along said Westerly right of way to the far end of a chord which bears North 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds East 149.97 feet; thence North 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds West 580.40 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 46644 M 40, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588204
(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Frederick D. Cornelius; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 455668F06; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frederick D. Cornelius, a married man, fee simple
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Date of Mortgage: March 21, 2003
Date of Mortgage Recording: April 14, 2003
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $141,236.77
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Paw Paw, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The North 22 acres of the South 42 5/8 acres of the East 70.5 acres of the Northeast Quarter of Section 21, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, except the North 7 acres thereof.
Common street address (if any): 61398 40th St, Paw Paw, MI 49079-9753
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588240
(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Dale Kovach; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 528681F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 23, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Dale Kovach and Karen Kovach, husband and wife, as joint tenants
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Date of Mortgage: December 15, 2021
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 17, 2021
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $162,325.95
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Lawrence, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The South Half of Lots 7 and 8 in Block 9 in Original Plat of the Village of Lawrence, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber D of plats, page 600, Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 130 S Elizabeth St, Lawrence, MI 49064-9604
The redemption period shall be

Continues on page10

Sample ballots may be viewed at www.mi.gov/vote.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 LAST DAY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION OTHER THAN IN-PERSON

Persons with special needs as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the appropriate clerk's office.

This notice is given as required by law (MCL 168.498(3)).

SARAH M. VANDENBURG
BARRY COUNTY CLERK

KIMBERLY A. HINKLEY
CALHOUN COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS

GINA EVERSON
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS

SUZIE ROEHM
VAN BUREN COUNTY CLERK

ON BEHALF OF:

Kalamazoo County

Brady Township
Reagan Hunter
Township Clerk

Charleston Township
Alese LePert
Township Clerk

Climax Township
Sarah DeBoer
Township Clerk

Comstock Township
Nicole Beauchamp
Township Clerk

Cooper Township
DeAnna Janssen, CMC
Township Clerk

Kalamazoo Township
Lisa Mackie
Township Clerk

Oshtemo Township
Dusty Farmer
Township Clerk

Pavilion Township
Karen E. Siegwart
Township Clerk

Prairie Ronde Township
Dale Smith
Township Clerk

Richland Township
Tami Penny
Township Clerk

Ross Township
Mary Stage
Township Clerk

Schoolcraft Township
Eska Brown
Township Clerk

Texas Township
Emily Beutel
Township Clerk

Wakeshma Township
Michael Fry
Township Clerk

Galesburg City
Lisa McNees
City Clerk

Kalamazoo City
Scott A. Borling, CMC
City Clerk

Parchment City
Shannon Stutz
City Clerk

Portage City
Erica Eklov, CMC
City Clerk

Barry County

Barry Township
Deb Knight
Township Clerk

Johnstown Township
Cheri Babcock
Township Clerk

Prairieville Township
Rod Goebel
Township Clerk

Calhoun County

Battle Creek City
Victoria Houser
City Clerk

Bedford Township
Joyce Feraco
Township Clerk

Leroy Township
Nicole Hardish
Township Clerk

St. Joseph County

Leonidas Township
Julie Censke
Township Clerk

Mendon Township
Donna Cupp
Township Clerk

Park Township
Lari Roberts
Township Clerk

Van Buren County

Almena Township
Sandi Rickli
Township Clerk

Antwerp Township
Chantel Reyna
Township Clerk

=• PUBLIC NOTICE •=

Continues from page 9

6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 26, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1588285

(03-26)(04-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Palmer Dr., LLC VS Fred Mandel; Atty: ANR - ANR; 1st Pub: 3/26/2026; Atty File #: 25-075225-CH; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF ACTION AS TO ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, OR ASSIGNEES OF FRED MANDEL AKA FREDERIC MANDEL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that there is presently pending in the Van Buren County Circuit Court, State of Michigan, an action between Plaintiff Palmer Dr., LLC, and Defendants Any and All Unknown heirs, devisees and assignees of Fred Mandel aka Frederic Mandel; Case No. 25-075228-CH, involving the property identified as: Lots 69, 70, and 71. Palmer Beach, Paw Paw Township, Parcel No. 80-14-430-069-00. You are being sued by Plaintiff in an action brought pursuant to quiet title to the property. You must file your answer or take other action permitted by law in the Van Buren County Circuit Court, 212 E Paw Paw St, Paw Paw, MI 49079, within twenty-eight (28) days after the date of this notice. You may contact and serve a copy of any answer on Steven A. Jacobs, Schenk & Bruetsch, PLC, 211 W Fort St., Ste 1410, Detroit, MI 48226. Failure to answer within the time frame by law may result in a default judgment being entered against your interests in the Property.

(03-26)(04-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Andrew J Suarez; Atty: Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. - Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C.; 1st Pub: 3/19/2026; Atty File #: 25MI00512-1; Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, April 16, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Andrew J. Suarez, An Unmarried Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated July 5, 2022, and recorded on July 8, 2022, in Liber 1740, Page 522, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated July 25, 2025 and recorded December 09, 2025 in Liber 1787, Page 17, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Eighty-Eight and 01/100 ($149,088.01) including interest at the rate of 5.25000% per annum.
Said premises are situated in the Township of PORTER, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Section 19, Town 4 South, Range 13 West for the place of beginning; thence South 89 degrees 32 minutes 39 seconds East, 340.00 feet on the North line of said Section 19; thence South 00 degrees 40 minutes 15 seconds West, 530.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 32 minutes 39 seconds West, 340.00 feet to the West line of said Section 19; thence North 00 degrees 39 minutes 43 seconds East, 512.87 feet on the West line of said Section 19 to the Northeast corner of Section 24, Town 4 South, Range 14 West; thence continuing North 00 degrees 56 minutes 25 seconds East, 17.13 feet to the Northwest corner of said Section 19 and the place of beginning Subject to an easement for ingress and egress, in common with others, over the Westerly 66 feet of the Northwest Fractional Quarter of Section 19, Town 4 South, Range 13 West.
Commonly known as: 33681 COUNTY ROAD 352, DECATUR, MI 49045 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: March 19, 2026 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00512-1

(03-19)(04-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Scott B. Roberts; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 3/12/2026; Atty File #: 25-011281; Insurer: FNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on APRIL 9, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Scott B. Roberts, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Ruoff Mortgage Company, Inc., Mortgagee, dated October 7, 2021 and recorded October 8, 2021 in Liber 1727, Page 117 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Greenway Mortgage Funding Corporation, by assignment.
There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred Eighteen and 73/100 Dollars ($150,718.73).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on APRIL 9, 2026.
Said premises are located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Beginning at the centerline of Highway M-119, now M-40, at a point 155.79 feet (previously recorded as 151.84 feet), Northwesterly from the intersection of said centerline and the North and South eight line of the Northeast Quarter of Section 19, Town 3 South, Range 13 West, Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan; thence North 47 degrees 30 minutes 32 seconds West along said centerline 100 feet; thence South 41 degrees 43 minutes 15 seconds West 250 feet; thence South 47 degrees 30 minutes 32 seconds East 100 feet; thence North 41 degrees 45 minutes 15 seconds East 250 feet to beginning.
60986 M 40, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. FinCEN reporting will be required of all successful purchasers, absent a lawful exemption.
Dated: March 12, 2026
File No. 25-011281
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(03-12)(04-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Jose Martinez; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 3/12/2026; Atty File #: 26-000628-1; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on April 09, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Jose Martinez, an unmarried man Original Mortgagee: Amerifirst Financial Corporation Date of mortgage: April 12, 2022 Recorded on April 26, 2022, Liber 1737, on Page 319, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven and 24/100 Dollars ($175,137.24) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 11, Block 4 of Dodges Addition to the Village of Lawton, according to the recorded Plat thereof, as recorded in Liber K, Page 177, Van Buren County, Michigan.
Commonly known as 238 S Railroad St, Lawton, MI 49065
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1587245

(03-12)(04-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: M Brian Knotek; Atty: Plunkett & Cooney - Lisa A. Hall; 1st Pub: 3/5/2026; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County in Paw Paw, Michigan starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on April 23, 2026.
The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by M Brian Knotek and Kristen H. Knotek, husband and wife, as Mortgagor to Old National Bank, a national association, as Mortgagee, dated September 10, 2014, and recorded September 29, 2014, Liber 1609, Page 121, in Van Buren County Records, Van Buren County, Michigan. The balance owing on the Mortgage is $65,269.01 at the time of this Notice. The Mortgage contains a power of sale and no suit or proceeding at law or in equity has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part of the Mortgage. The Mortgagee will apply the sale proceeds to the debt secured by the Mortgage as stated above, plus interest on the amount due at the rate of 4.25% per annum; all legal costs and expenses, including attorney fees allowed by law; and also any amount paid by the Mortgagee to protect its interest in the property. The property to be sold at foreclosure is all of that real estate situated in the Township of Almena, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, described as: Lot 39, Thousand Oaks No. 3, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 8 of Plats on Page 22.
Parcel ID: 80-01-552-039-00
Commonly known address: 24271 Thousand Oaks Dr., Mattawan, MI 49071 The redemption period shall be six-months from the date of sale pursuant to MCLA 600.3240(8), unless deemed abandoned and then pursuant to the time frames provided for in MCL 600.3241a. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 27, 2026 Old National Bank, N.A., Mortgagee PLUNKETT COONEY LISA A. HALL Attorney for Mortgagee 333 Bridge Street NW, Suite 530 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504 (616) 752-4615

(03-05)(04-02)

Columbia Township
NORTH LAKE AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of Columbia Township will hold a public hearing at a special meeting of the Township Board on April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., before the regular meeting, at the Township Hall, 53053 County Road 388, Grand Junction, Michigan 49056, within the Township, to hear and consider any objections to the proposed Improvements, the District and all other matters relating to said Improvements and the District.
TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that preliminary plans and estimates of cost for the Improvements are on file with the Township Clerk for public examination. PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE ADDED TO THE PROPOSED SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AND THE ORIGINAL ESTIMATE OF COST SHALL NOT BE INCREASED BY MORE THAN 10% WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING.
Columbia Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the hearing, to individuals with disabilities at the hearing upon four (4) days' notice to the Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk at the address below.

This Notice was authorized by the Township Board of Columbia Township
Kara Hartmann, Clerk
Columbia Township
53053 CR 388, Grand Junction, MI 49056
(269) 434-6227

MATTAWAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
Schools of Choice Open Enrollment
April 6, 2026 - August 28, 2026
All Grade Levels
for the 2026-2027 School Year

Pursuant to Sections 105 and 105c of the State School Aid Act, Mattawan Consolidated School will be accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year from non resident students residing within the Van Buren, Allegan, Berrien, Kalamazoo and Lewis-Cass Intermediate School Districts for acceptance into Mattawan Consolidated School.

Applications will be available beginning on Monday, April 6,2026 at 8:00 AM on the Mattawan Consolidated School website at www.mattawanschools.org. Interested persons may also request an application be mailed by contacting Leslie Swintz at 269-668-3361 Ext. 1771 or via email at lswintz@mattawanschools.org. The deadline for applications to be received at Mattawan Consolidated School is Friday, August 28,2026 at 4:00 PM.

The Mattawan Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, marital status, or any other legally protected characteristic in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. Please contact the Title IX Coordinator, 56720 Murray Street, Mattawan, MI 49071, 269-668-3361 with inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PLACE AN AD
Call (269) 657-3072 or 657-5080 BEFORE MONDAY AT 5PM
www.wilcox-newspaper.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the May 5, 2026, Special Election has been scheduled for **Thursday, April 9th, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.,** in the offices of the clerks of the Kalamazoo County municipalities as listed below.

BRADY TOWNSHIP	Reagan Hunter	13123 South 24th St. - Vicksburg
CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP	Alese LePert	1499 South 38th St. – Galesburg
CLIMAX TOWNSHIP	Sarah DeBoer	110 N. Main St. - Climax
COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP	Nicole Beauchamp	5858 King Highway - Comstock
COOPER TOWNSHIP	DeAnna Janssen, CMC	1590 West D Ave. - Kalamazoo
KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP	Lisa Mackie	1720 Riverview Dr. – Kalamazoo
OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP	Dusty Farmer	7275 West Main St. - Kalamazoo
PAVILION TOWNSHIP	Karen E. Siegwart	7510 East Q Ave. – Scotts
PRAIRIE RONDE TOWNSHIP	Dale Smith	14050 S 6th Street- Schoolcraft
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP	Tami Penny	7401 North 32nd St. - Richland
ROSS TOWNSHIP	Mary Stage	12086 East M-89 - Richland
SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP	Eska Brown	50 East VW Ave. - Vicksburg
TEXAS TOWNSHIP	Emily Beutel	7227 West Q Ave. - Kalamazoo
WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP	Michael Fry	13988 South 42nd St. - Fulton
GALESBURG CITY	Lisa McNees	200 E. Michigan Ave. - Galesburg
KALAMAZOO CITY	Scott Borling, CMC	3001 S. Burdick St. - Kalamazoo
PARCHMENT CITY	Shannon Stutz	650 S. Riverview Dr. - Parchment
PORTAGE CITY	Erica Eklov, CMC	7900 South Westnedge Ave - Portage

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program(s) and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by the law.

MEREDITH PLACE
KALAMAZOO COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2026 SOUTHWEST REGION HERBICIDE PROGRAM

The Michigan Department of Transportation hereby provides notice to the public, and property owners adjacent to state highways of the 2026 Herbicide Application Program treatments for roadside rights-of way within Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, and Branch Counties.

SCHEDULED DATES OF APPLICATION:
Applications will take place between April 1, 2026, and December 1, 2026.

HERBICIDES/LOCATIONS:
Non-Selective Applications: (guardrail, pavement/shoulder cracks and edges, barrier walls, concrete bridge slopes, invasive plants) ANY INDIVIDUAL OR COMBINATIONS OF THE HERBICIDES LISTED BELOW:
Roundup Pro Concentrate (Glyphosate), **Plateau** (Imazapic), **Milestone** (Aminopyralid), **Escort XP** (Metsulfuron Methyl), **Polaris** (Isopropylamine salt of Imazapyr), **Esplanade 200SC** (Indaziflam), **Method 240SL** (Aminocyclopyrachlor), **Telar XP** (Chlorsulfuron) **Aquamaster/Roundup Custom** (Glyphosate).

Selective Applications: (broadleaf weeds in turf areas, brush control, plant growth regulator, invasive plants) ANY INDIVIDUAL OR COMBINATIONS OF THE HERBICIDES LISTED BELOW:
Milestone (Aminopyralid), **Escort XP** (Metsulfuron Methyl), **Garlon 4 Ultra** (Triclopyr-2-butoxyethylester), **Plateau** (Imazapic), **Method 240SL** (Aminocyclopyrachlor), **Vastlan** (Triclopyr choline, acetic acid, choline salt), **TerraVue** (Aminopyralid, Florpyrauxifen-Benzyl), **HighNoon** (Aminopyralid, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl), **Garlon 3A** (Triclopyr).

METHOD OF APPLICATION:
Applications may be terrestrial, applied by vehicular-mounted fixed boom or hand spray gun equipment; or aerial drone applications. The herbicides will be tank-mixed or directly injected for each application.

RE-ENTRY RESTRICTIONS:
Do not enter treated areas until the spray has dried.

CONTACT:
All applications will be made by Certified Pesticide Applicators. For further information contact:

Rachael LeTourneau, Resource Analyst
Michigan Department of Transportation
1501 East Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
269-303-2529

This notice is published per Regulation 637 Act No. 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended.

The Lodge is Growing with New Construction

James Windell

The Lodge, a favorite restaurant destination for South Haven residents as well as tourists since it opened five years ago, is adding more space.

This will be the first changes or construction since the restaurant began serving patrons.

"We are adding approximately 1200 square feet off of the rear of our building to expand and streamline our kitchen operations," says Meredith Sherrod, one of the two owners of The Lodge. "The addition will help our employees work a lot more efficiently and give us the ability to potentially expand some of our offerings and off-season specials in the future."

The addition, Sherrod says, is going where they currently have outdoor seating. "As a result," she adds, "we will be completely redeveloping our patio space."

Sherrod emphasizes that this is an exciting expansion for The Lodge. "This addition is a response to the overwhelming support from the community over the last five years," she says. "The main focus of the addition is to help our team better serve our guests. We are planning to include a few bonus items that we hope improve the customer experience. We hope the community is excited to see these exciting changes as we grow."

Before Sherrod and her business partner, Erica DeGrandchamp, opened The Lodge in June, 2021, it was The Curve Inn. "The building itself had been a bar and restaurant in South Haven since 1940," Sherrod says, "so it needed a lot of TLC. We were very excited to bring life back to it but it was quite the project." They spent a year remodeling the building, including ripping the roof off and adding new bathrooms and more seating. "We basically did an overhaul of the entire building, the only things left from the original are the hard wood floor and the granite bar," Sherrod adds.

The new construction has already begun with work being done by the Kalamazoo-based company of Adam Garland Construction Inc.

Sherrod says that there will be no disruption to their daily service while construction is going on. "The team at Adam Garland Construction has done a great job to ensure we can keep operating like normal throughout the entire process."

She says that the new addition to The Lodge, which she describes as "South Haven's original and last standing roadhouse," should be completed by June.

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• AUCTION •

ID STORAGE 75577 14 th Ave., South Haven MI 49090. Auction of units. #32 M.Jackson, #33 J.Green, #58 T. Sullivan &; #91 A.McNair &; S.Phillips. As is where is Sunday March 29 th at 10:00 am.

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public **Auction: 3/31/2026 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw:** Chris Beeman, 10; Justin Wellington, 15; Kenneth Thompson, 88; Gail Johnson, 100/101; Keith Allen, 217.

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KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP	Lisa Mackie	1720 Riverview Dr. – Kalamazoo
OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP	Dusty Farmer	7275 West Main St. - Kalamazoo
PAVILION TOWNSHIP	Karen E. Siegwart	7510 East Q Ave. – Scotts
PRAIRIE RONDE TOWNSHIP	Dale Smith	14050 S 6th Street- Schoolcraft
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP	Tami Penny	7401 North 32nd St. - Richland
ROSS TOWNSHIP	Mary Stage	12086 East M-89 - Richland
SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP	Eska Brown	50 East VW Ave. - Vicksburg
TEXAS TOWNSHIP	Emily Beutel	7227 West Q Ave. - Kalamazoo
WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP	Michael Fry	13988 South 42nd St. - Fulton
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PARCHMENT CITY	Shannon Stutz	650 S. Riverview Dr. - Parchment
PORTAGE CITY	Erica Eklov, CMC	7900 South Westnedge Ave - Portage

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program(s) and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by the law.

MEREDITH PLACE
KALAMAZOO COUNTY CLERK & REGISTER OF DEEDS

NOTICE
Please remove all winter wreaths, and decorations "Statures & Mementoes" from Paw Paw Township cemeteries **BEFORE APRIL 15TH**

Thank You
Thomas Palenick - Paw Paw Township Supervisor

NOTICE OF VILLAGE OF PAW PAW ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

The Village of Paw Paw hereby announces that a Village Ordinance Amendment was approved on Monday, March 9, 2026. This notice serves as the formal announcement of a 30-day public review period of the ordinance. The review period will end April 9, 2026. The Ordinance Amendment affects Chapter 22 Parks and Recreation. Specifically, it amended the size and membership of the Parks Board, the date and time of its meetings, and the responsibilities placed upon the board by the Village Council. The full text of the amendment is available for review at Village Hall. Questions regarding the amendment can be submitted in writing to the Village Clerk at k.tacy@pawpaw.net, or at Village Hall, 111 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079.

Public Notice
Waverly Township

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the May 5, 2026 Special Election has been scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the Township Hall Meeting Room, 42114 M43 HWY, Paw Paw, Michigan

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted To demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Starr Houston
Township Clerk

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